Santa Clara County Historical Indian Mounds by Albert Johansson

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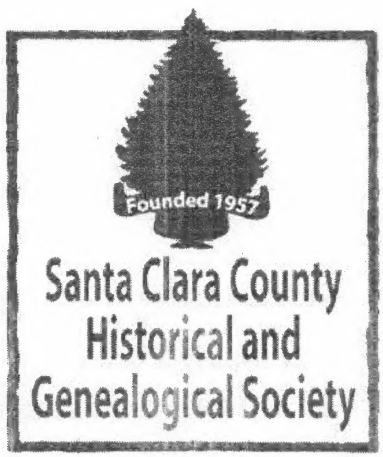
Notes:

- Original in possession of the Santa Clara County Archives, San Jose, California
- Scanned by the Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society



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CLASS II - HISTORICAL

INDIAN MOUNDS

The vanished Olhone Indians of the San Francisco Bay area and coastal region have left approximately 1400 mounds behind them as the only monuments to their existence. Even these mounds are rapidly disappearing. Most have been leveled off in cultivating the land or for building airports and houses.

Easiest mound site to reach in the San Jose area is on the northeast corner of Bayshore highway where it is crossed by the Lawrence station road about one mile south of Moffett Field air port. The mound is just a field now, but bits of bone, shell, and ash residue can be seen mixed in with the black soil.

This mound was a favorite hunting spot for Stanford University medical students looking for old bones and skulls. Some half finished or broken tools have been picked up from time to time. Shell bits found there are not all from San Francisco Bay. Some are from the ocean, where the Indians used to go for shell fish and a certain kind of stone (Monterey chert) for making arrowheads and other weapons. Parts of their trails from Santa Clara Valley to the sea are still discernible by clam-shell refuse strewn along the route.

Other mounds are in the region of the Agnew State Hospital, at Pigeon Point on the ocean, and behind the high school at Burlingame. No efforts have been made to preserve any of these mounds ~~besides~~ except for the suggestions of several interested individuals.